

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 75

By Maddox

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint study committee to review Tennessee Board of Education rules and regulations regarding intellectually gifted students.

WHEREAS, intellectually gifted children and youth are found in every region of Tennessee, in all cultural groups and across all economic strata, in rural areas, in towns of every size, and in every school district; and

WHEREAS, the well being and educational attainment of all students, including those who are intellectually gifted, is an important public policy goal; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet the needs and maximize the capabilities of intellectually gifted students in Tennessee public schools, intellectually gifted students often need educational planning as well as different instruction, educational arrangements, and advanced or special classes which may not be offered as part of the regular program to their age peers; and

WHEREAS, to develop recommendations to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of education planning and the appropriateness of educational services for intellectually gifted students in Tennessee, it is imperative that a study of existing State Board of Education rules and regulations be conducted; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint study committee to review Tennessee Board of Education rules and regulations regarding intellectually gifted students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall examine only existing Board of Education rules and regulations governing gifted education, and shall recommend changes to those regulations to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of gifted education. The areas of review and possible recommendation shall be limited to:

- (a) improving and clarifying eligibility criteria for intellectually gifted students;
- (b) improving education planning for intellectually gifted students, as well as streamlining procedures and reducing paperwork related to Individualized Education Programs;
- (c) making evaluation and reevaluation methods and procedures more efficient and more appropriate for intellectually gifted students;
- (d) increasing the likelihood that the needs of intellectually gifted students are addressed and met in regular K-12 classrooms, and that students have easier access to advanced instruction in higher grades and in post-secondary school settings; and
- (e) providing pre-service, in-service, and advanced teacher training regarding the needs of intellectually gifted students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of twelve (12) members, to be appointed within sixty (60) days of passage of the resolution, as follows:

- (1) The Executive Director of the Tennessee Board of Education, or his or her designee, who shall serve as the chair of the committee;
- (2) The Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee;
- (3) The following members, as appointed by the Governor:

(i) Two (2) supervisors of special education selected from a list of at least four (4) nominees submitted by the Tennessee Association of Administrators of Special Education;

(ii) Two (2) gifted education teachers from a list of at least four (4) nominees submitted by the Tennessee Association for the Gifted;

(iii) Three (3) parents of identified gifted students from a list of at least five (5) nominees submitted by the Tennessee Initiative for Gifted Education Reform; and

(iv) Three (3) professors or professionals with demonstrated expertise in gifted education, at least one (1) of whom shall possess demonstrated expertise in the emotional and social needs of intellectually gifted students, selected from a list of at least five (5) nominees submitted by the Tennessee Association for the Gifted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if for any reason a vacancy occurs in the committee membership, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the initial appointment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall meet at least three (3) times with a quorum of more than half of its members present before issuing a final report of recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance and information to the committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Tennessee Board of Education by January 30, 2004, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.